WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

RICHARD BUTLER

Thanks and hello! For those of you that may not know, I am Richard, Kyle’s

father. My wife, Amy and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Cindy and

Doug Ripkin, and to all of David’s family particularly David’s grandmother ……….

To all of our dear friends and family from back east, if we knew all it would take to

 get you out here was an open bar we would have done this sooner!!! (**Wait for**

 **the laugh**). It only took about thirty years for us to figure **THAT** out! I’m glad we

 did…A lot has happened in those thirty years and it is so great to see all of you.

 Sadly, a very important person was not able to join us today, but they are

 always very close. Kyle, you know your grandma is so proud of you today and

 always. To all of Kyle and David’s friends who have managed to travel from

near and far to share this moment, we’re so happy to see **ALL** of you. …. Um,

 Kyle? Remember my self-calming words, of “there’s no way they’re all going to

show up” and you replied “Oh no Dad there **ALL** going to be here”. Deep down I

 **KNEW** you’d all show up to celebrate this wonderful couple. It’s a true testament

 to the power of friendship and the love that’s in the air today. (**If you**

**want you can say**) … and I had to have a daughter that is a **MASTER** at social

 networking!! (**And wait for the laugh**). It’s been said, “A person’s friendships

 are one of the best measures of his or her worth.” As I look around today I really

 know that Kyle and David, are truly blessed. My memory goes back to that night

 many years ago as we pulled out of Shifty’s driveway. We were leaving New

 Jersey and Kyle was leaving her dear friends. The combined tears of Ali, Jen,

 Corey, and Kimmy were killing me. But it was long in Milwaukee before Kyle met

 Paige, and of course Gretchen, Lindsey, Ali and Claire. Soon after it was off to

 Miami with Ali and Paige… and I am **STILL** trying to figure **THAT** one out. This

 chapter brought Sara, Megan, Andrea, Molly and the twins. Kyle, I think it’s safe

 to say that you understand the value of true friendship. And along the way

 we too developed a true meaningful friendship, but I am happy to add that the

 best for you was yet to come, because then you met David.

For those of you that might not know, it was Kyle that first asked David out

their senior year at school. What started as a fun date in Cincinnati evolved into

a **GREAT** date that foretold the destiny of our bride and groom. They may have

started the evening at a formal party but wound up at a beer and shot bar where

the crowd believed they were newlyweds and the free beverages flowed!! After a

while they returned to the first party but it was very clear to both that their

spontaneity lit the spark that inspired a great friendship and a beautiful romance.

What began as a little joke blossomed into the real thing and here we are today.

David, you won us over too and I want to officially welcome you to our family.

Thank you for being the man you were raised to be and for treating my daughter

with so much love and respect. Amy and I could not have wished for a better

 man for Kyle to fall in love with.

Kyle, I want to say that you’ve always been and always will be my pride and joy;

my beautiful, loving, athletic daughter, and the source of so many of the

 blessings for which I am grateful. From the day you were born you’ve been

 my little girl and I will **NEVER** forget when I first saw you. The nurse said you

looked like you dropped from my eye with that tuft of red hair and that little dimple

 in your chin… and now… you’re a beautiful, accomplished, talented woman who

 I have cherished and protected for twenty seven years. But I am ready to hand

these duties over to David now with one a little word of advice. Remember: Just

because she’s good at sales doesn’t mean she’s going to take **ORDERS**!! She is

 much better at giving them.

Lastly Kyle, remember the special fairy tale I made up that was recited

 **Every** night before bed, Well, you’ve found your prince, and it’s time to live

happily ever after.

I want to thank all of you once again, for being here and sharing our joy. I also

want to thank Amy for all that she has done to make this wonderful day a reality,

and I would like to ask you all to rise and raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Kyle and David, Thank you for making me the happiest man here today. My

greatest wish is that your love and friendship grow and deepen through the years

and that you will know only happiness and health and more than you could ever

wish for! To Kyle and David Ripkin… Congratulations! We love you!